REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 2-7, 9-15, and 26-29 are pending. Claims 16-18 have been cancelled. Claims 2 and 3 have been amended. Claims 30-32 have been added.

The Examiner rejected claims 2, 12, 14-16, and 29 under 35 U.S.C. 102, as being anticipated by Dandl (U.S. Patent 5,370,765).

Claim 2 has been amended to recite that the wall surrounds the magnetic elements and plasma region so that plasma is able to form plasma deposition on the wall and the magnetic field produced by the magnetic elements reduces plasma deposition on the wall, and where the magnetic elements are in the plasma region and where the magnetic field from the magnetic elements reduces plasma deposition on the wall. There is not wall in Dandl that surrounds the magnetic elements where the magnetic elements are in the plasma region and where the plasma from the plasma region is able to form plasma deposition on the wall, where the magnetic field reduces plasma deposition on the wall. In Dandl the liner 49 of FIG. 2, the plasma is able to deposit on the liner, but the liner does not surround the magnetic elements so that the magnetic elements are in the plasma region. Plasma is not able to reach the outer wall of Dandl, since the inner liner blocks such plasma. For at least these reasons, claim 2, as amended, is not anticipated by Dandl.

Claim 16 is cancelled.

Claims 12, 14-15, and 29 each depend either directly or indirectly from independent claim 2, and are therefore respectfully submitted to be patentable over the art of record for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to independent claims. Additionally, these dependent claims require additional elements that when taken in the context of the claimed invention, further patentably distinguish the art of record. For example, claim 14 further recites that the magnetic elements are within sleeves. The bands 51 described in col. 13, lines 20-32, are flat bands on one side of the magnets as shown in Fig. 2 of Dandl, and are not sleeves. The applicant requests that the Examiner specifically point out what other structure the Examiner is describing as enclosing the magnets to form sleeves. Claim 15 further recites that at least one of the magnetic elements is moved so that the magnetic field shifts over time.

Movement of the band 51 is not movement of the magnetic elements. In addition, claim 29 recites that the plasma is able to fill the entire process chamber in which the magnetic elements are disposed. Again, in Fig. 1 of Dandl the magnets are not disposed within the chamber that is filled with plasma. For at least these reasons, claims 12, 14-15, and 29 are not anticipated by Dandl.

The Examiner rejected claims 3-7, 9-11, 13, and 26-28 under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Dandl (U.S. Patent 5,370,765). Claims 3-7, 9-11, 13, and 26-28 each depend either directly or indirectly from the independent claim, and are therefore respectfully submitted to be patentable over the art of record for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to independent claim. Additionally, these dependent claims require additional elements that when taken in the context of the claimed invention, further patentably distinguish the art of record. For example, claim 3, as amended, recites that each of the plurality of magnetic elements extends substantially from a first end of the process chamber to a chuck. As discussed above regarding claim 2, Dandl shows magnets being disposed between the first end and the chuck, but does not show each magnet extending from the first end to the chuck. It would not be obvious from Dandl to have each magnetic element extend from the first end to the second end of the process chamber, since Dandl relies on recesses 66, 68 (col. 11, lines 35-45 of Dandl). In addition, claim 9 recites the magnetic elements are individually contained in sleeves. The magnets in FIG. 1 of Dandle are not individually contained in sleeves. Claim 11 recites that the magnetic elements are rotated. The Examiner failed to specifically point out anything in Dandl that teaches moving a magnetic element or rotating the magnetic elements. The Examiner has recited that Dandl discloses shifting the magnetic field, but not moving the magnetic elements. For at least these reasons, claims 3-7, 10-12, 15, 16, and 26-29 are not anticipated or made obvious by the cited references.

New claims 30-32 are ultimately dependent on claim 2 and further recite that the chamber is substantially cylindrical and that the wall forms a side of the substantially cylindrical shape and a substrate holder at the bottom of the substantially cylindrical shape, where each of the plurality of magnetic elements extend substantially from the top of they cylindrical shape to the bottom of the substantially cylindrical shape and that a dielectric window is at the top of the substantially cylindrical shape.

Applicant believes that all pending claims are allowable and respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance for this application from the Examiner. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at telephone number (831) 655-2300.

Respectfully submitted,
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